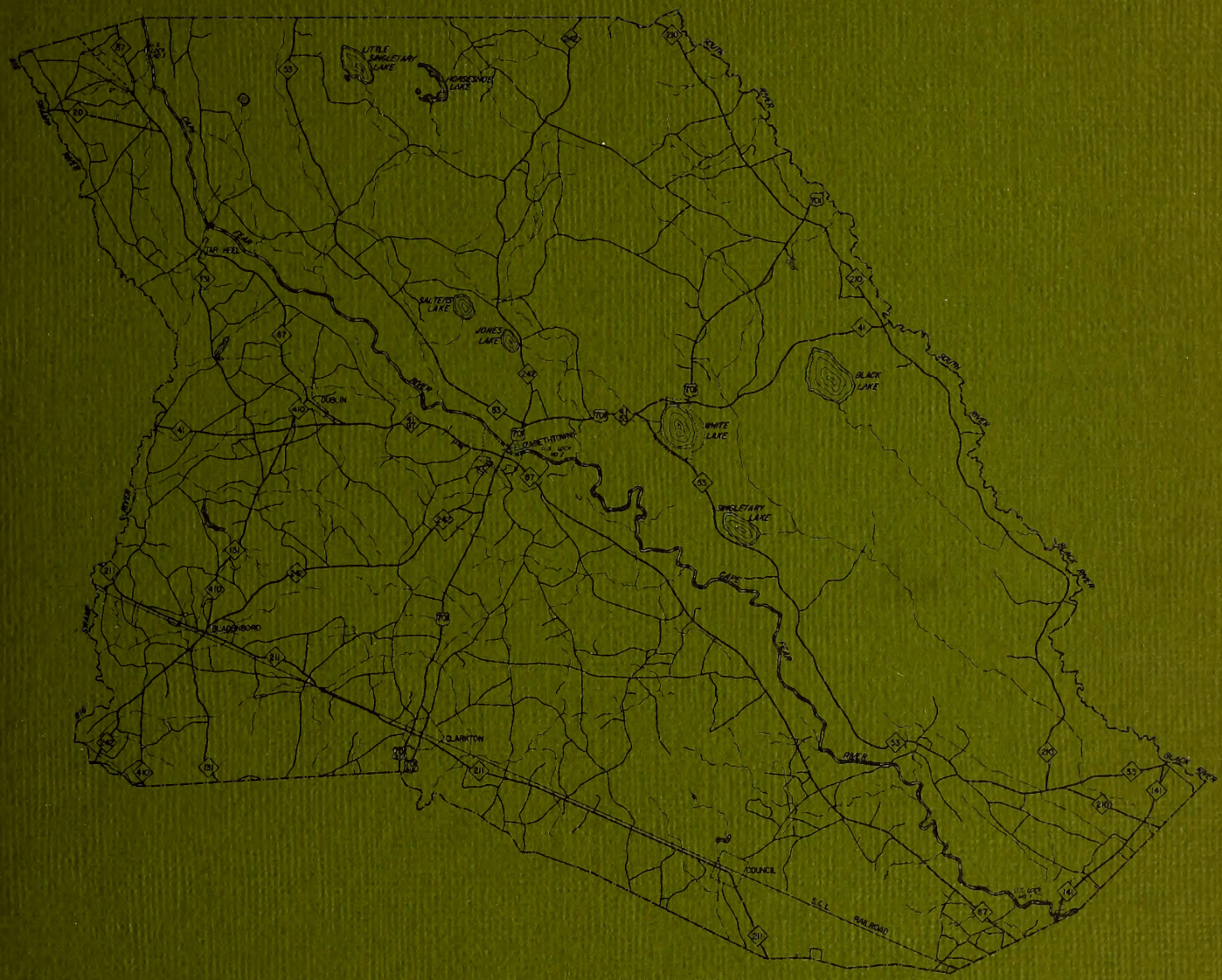

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

BLADEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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16. Abstracts

The Community Facilities Plan for Bladen County evaluates public facilities and services in terms of present and future needs and outlines the public improvements that would be needed in future years. The Public Improvements Program arranges the improvement needs by priority into five year periods over a twenty year period. The Capital Improvements Budget takes the first five year period and seeks to program monies to acquire these items, with special emphasis on the first year.

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17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms

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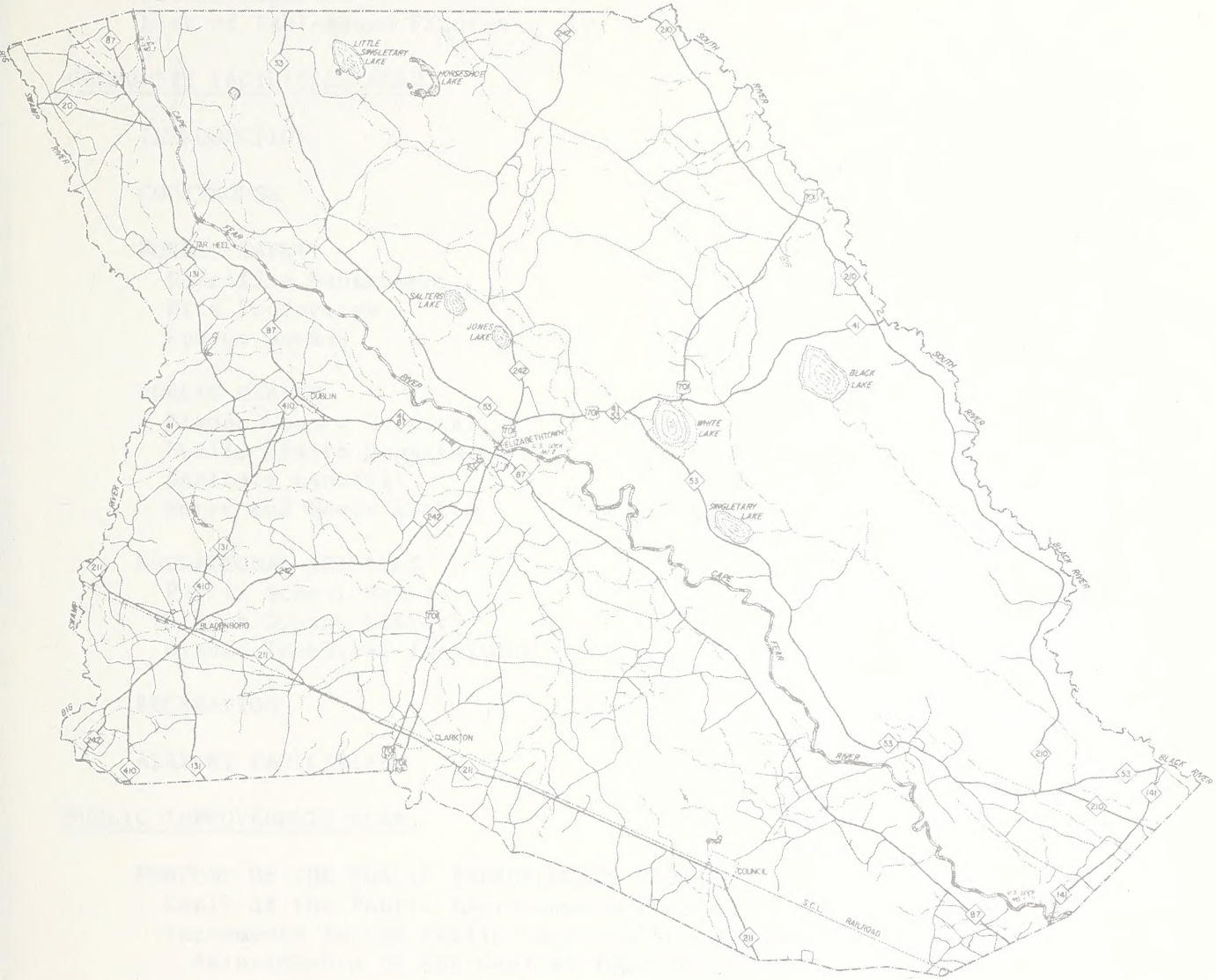

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

BLADEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS (Cont.)

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Page

TABLES

FIGURES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

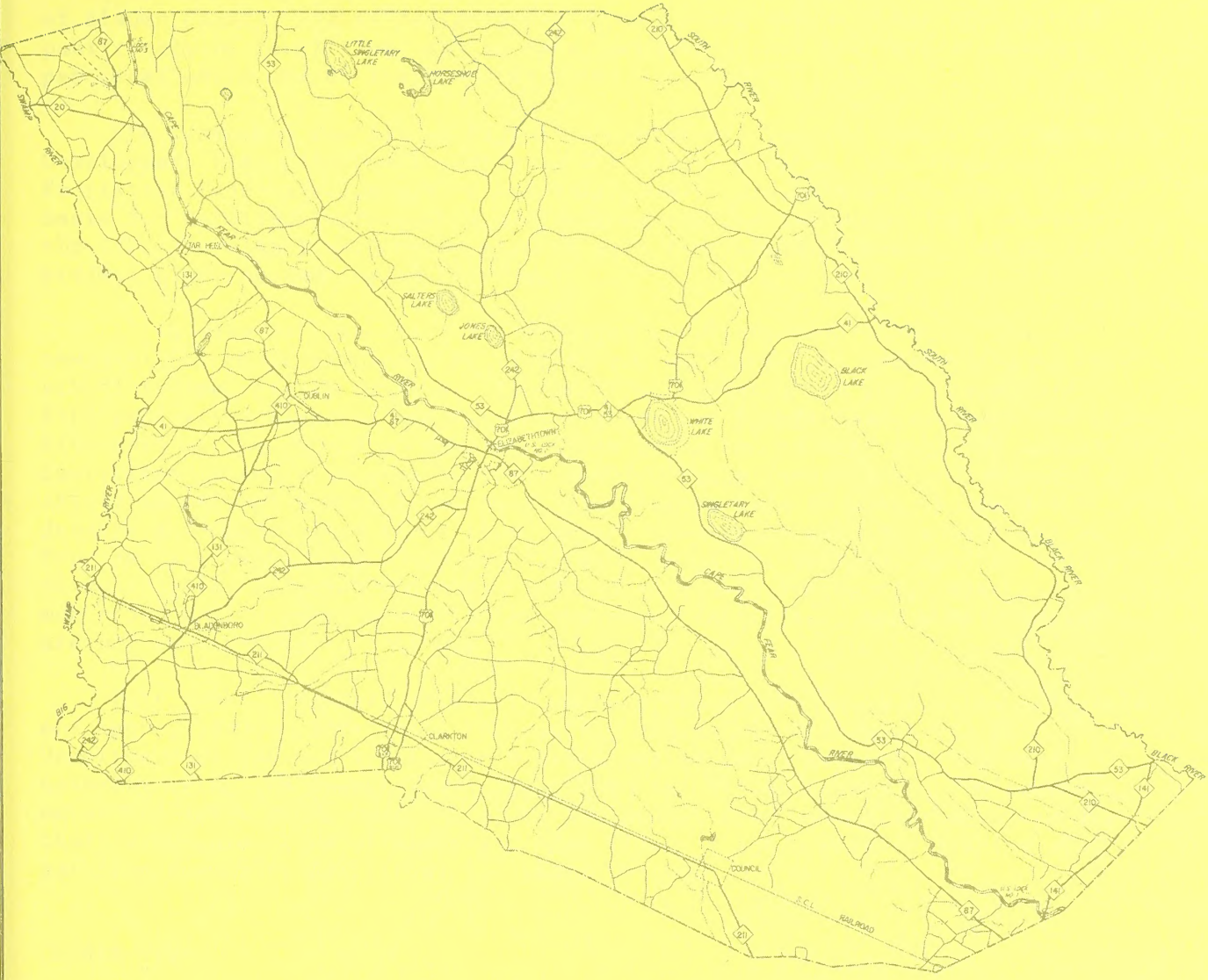
The Bladen County Planning Board and the Division of Community Services would like to express sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for their cooperation and assistance in compiling the information that made this report possible.

Mr. Doug Evans	Bladen County Auditor
Mrs. Nellie R. Bryan, R. N.	Bladen County Health Department
Mr. Paul Stephens, Chief	Elizabethtown Fire Department
Mr. J. C. Shaw, Director	Bladenboro Public Works Department
Mr. Harry Womble, Chief	White Lake Fire Department
Mr. Sam Potter	Kelly Fire Department
Mr. Willis Robinson, Chief	Elizabethtown Rescue Squad
Mr. Alfred Willoughby, Chief	Bladenboro Rescue Squad
Mr. Floyd Hursey	Dublin Fire Department
Mr. Frank Melvin	Clarkton Rescue Squad and Fire Dept.
Col. George I. Resseguie, President	Bladen Technical Institute
Mrs. Evelyn Williford, Head Librarian	Bladen County Library
Mr. W. J. Hair, Superintendent	Bladen County School System
Mr. C. M. Wicker, Sanitarian	Bladen County Health Department
Mr. B. W. Kilpatrick, Administrator	Bladen County Hospital
Mrs. Julia Butler, Supervisor	Bladen County Department of Social Services
Mr. J. B. Allen, Sheriff	Bladen County Sheriff's Department
Mr. Woodrow Fussell, Executive Director	Industrial Development Commission

FORWARD

The Community Facilities Plan for Bladen County evaluates public facilities and services in terms of present and future needs and outlines the public improvements that would be needed in future years. The Public Improvements Program and Capital Improvements Budget expand upon the recommendations made in the Community Facilities Plan by providing greater detail on priorities, schedules, costs and methods of financing improvements projects. The Public Improvements Program schedules needed improvements in five-year increments between 1973 and 1993 and states justifications for each project. The Capital Improvements Budget analyzes the improvement projects programmed for the first five years in terms of urgency, cost and source of financing, and then schedules expenditures for the projects on a year-by-year basis.

The capital improvements budgeting process outlined here is not meant to end with the publication of this report. Instead, each year hereafter, the first year of the Capital Improvements Budget should be made a part of the Annual County Budget, and one new year should be added to the five-year Capital Improvements Budget based upon a review of projects listed in the Public Improvements Program.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Community Facilities Plan is a study of the public serving facilities of Bladen County. It is designed to inventory and evaluate the adequacy of public serving facilities, and to make recommendations for future adequacy per local needs and/or state and national standards.

The Community Facilities Plan is an extension and refinement of the Sketch Development Plan previously completed for Bladen County. The Community Facilities Plan covering public and quasi-public uses and facilities, is a basis for detailed improvements programming and capital budgeting. Therefore, the CFP is a plan link between general land development planning and detailed project planning and implementation.

It is wise for the citizens of Bladen County to periodically take inventory of their community facilities and services. An examination of the school system, health services, recreational outlets, law enforcement and fire protection agencies and the like, gives the County Commissioners and the citizenry of the county an opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of county facilities in administering to their needs. These facilities and services should be as high a quality as possible, because this is what the people deserve and expect from their local county government for the taxes they pay. For the most part, this study concentrates on public services whether county or municipally oriented which are offered to county residents. Therefore, municipal police departments, water and sewer facilities, and public works are not included in this study.

This report is based primarily on interviews with local elected officials and agency heads. Additional information was gathered through the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources research material, the most relevant being the Sketch Development Plan for Bladen County. The county's water and sewer plan, hospital plan, and school plan were also consulted for their particular area of coverage. See Figure 1 for a graphic display of existing community facilities in Bladen County.

COURTHOUSE[1]

The Bladen County Courthouse was built in 1965 and is still a modern, mechanically and structurally, trouble-free structure. The courthouse is located on the central block in downtown Elizabethtown at the intersection of U. S. 701 and N. C. 87. Listed below are the county, state, and federal offices located in the courthouse at this time:

District Court
Superior Court
County Commissioners Room
Sheriff's Department
Jail
County Auditor
Tax Department

County Library
Southeastern Economic Development Commission
SENCland Community Action Program
Veterans Service
Industrial Development Commission
Board of Election

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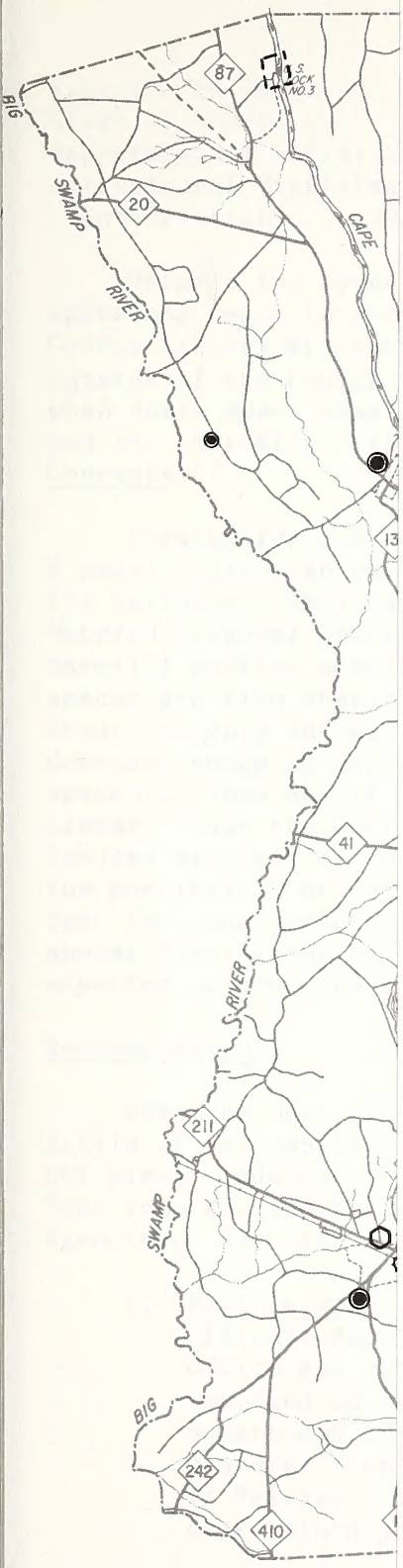
[1]Interviews with Mr. Doug Evans, County Auditor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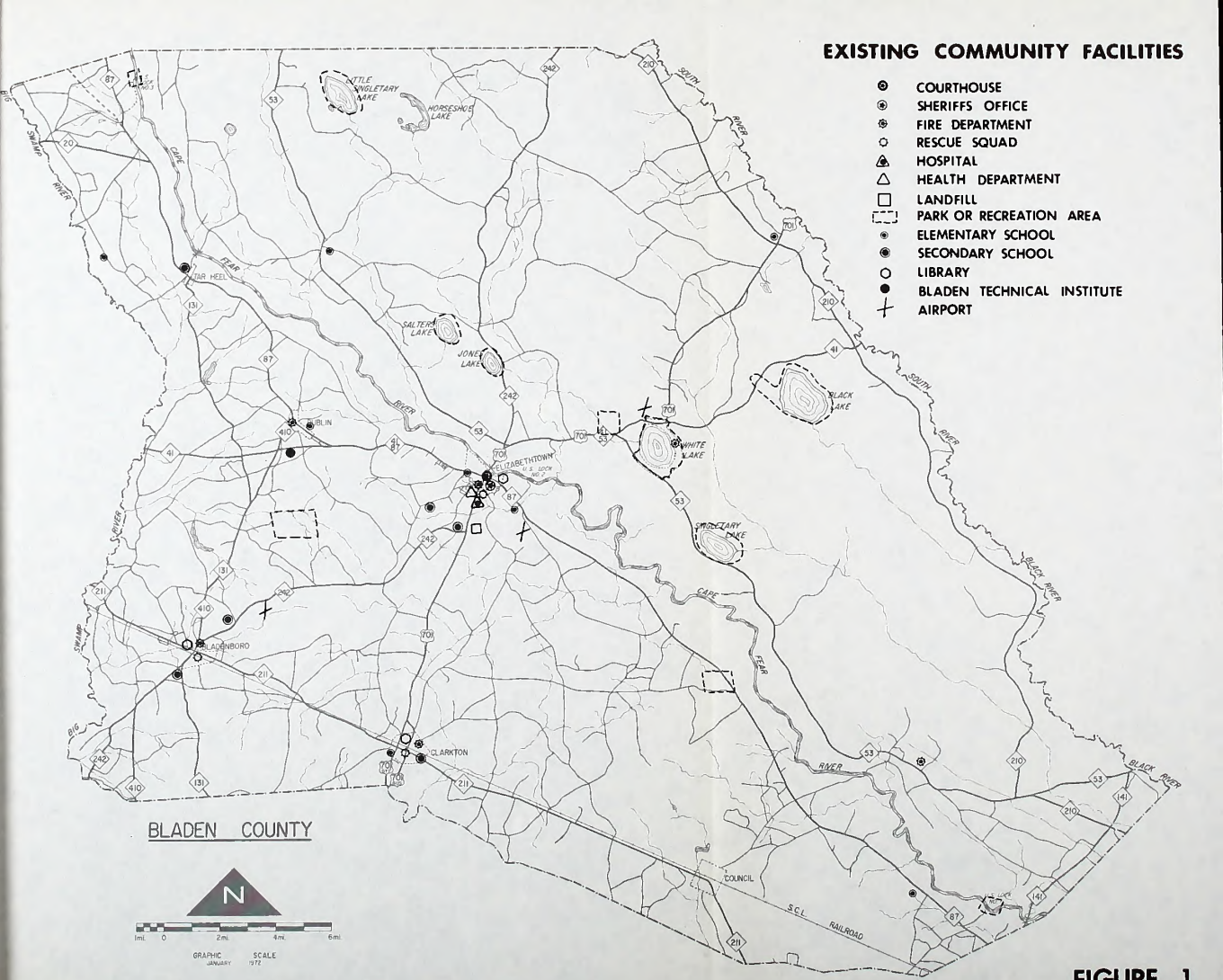
EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES
COURTHOUSE
SHERIFFS OFFICE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
RESCUE SQUAD
HOSPITAL
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
LANDFILL
PARK OR RECREATION AREA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SECONDARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY
BLADEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
AIRPORT
BLADEN COUNTY
N
1mi. 0 2mi. 4mi. 6mi.
GRAPHIC SCALE
JANUARY 1972
LITTLE SINGLETARY LAKE
HORSESHOE LAKE
SALTERS LAKE
JONES LAKE
BLACK LAKE
WHITE LAKE
SINGLETARY LAKE
TAR HEEL
BLIN
ELIZABETHTOWN
U.S. LOCK NO. 2
BLADENBORO
CLARKTON
COUNCIL
BIG SWAMP RIVER
CAPE FEAR RIVER
SOUTH RIVER
BLACK RIVER
SCL RAILROAD

FIGURE 1

3. Remove the Bladen County Library from the courthouse. Extreme cramped conditions and poor operating hours due to the Courthouse being locked in the evening and on the weekends makes it necessary for the Library to be moved out to a new location in or near Elizabethtown. This will free some room for later expansion of other offices in the courthouse.

4. Parking meters should be removed from the streets surrounding the Courthouse. Patrons of the Courthouse and employees who cannot find sufficient space in the Courthouse parking lot should be offered free on-street parking. When the library and the Department of Social Services leave the Courthouse, this should reduce parking demands, although parking demands will probably peak above any reasonable supply of space when the District or the Superior Court is in session.

5. Detailed space study needed. A county, state, and federal government office space, personnel, and equipment study plan needs to be made in detail for Bladen County. This examination will make it possible to gauge space needs for personnel and equipment, establish proper office linkages for machinery and personnel, and determine parking needs for all government workers and patrons.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff's Department[2]

The Sheriff's Department is contained in a two-story wing attached to the Bladen County Courthouse. The jail is a modern and spacious facility which will hold up to 60 prisoners, including juvenile offenders. Adult males, adult females, and juvenile offenders have separate holding facilities from each other. Poorly working plumbing facilities appear to be the only problem with the jail area.

The staff of the Sheriff's Department is composed of Sheriff John B. Allen, seven deputies, and seven other support personnel (including three full-time jailers, one part-time jailer, two cooks, and one secretary). There is both a training program for new deputy recruits and a continuous informal training program for experienced personnel. The turnover rate for deputies is quite low, despite the fact that the work week extends to over 50 hours. The Sheriff feels that an additional six deputies would more equitably distribute the work load and provide better law enforcement coverage for the county.

The equipment that the Sheriff's Department has at this time consists of seven, 1973 Ford sedans, an intradepartmental radio communication system plus radio contact with other local Sheriff's and Police Departments, plus other assorted law enforcement weaponry and paraphernalia.

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[2]Interviews with Mr. John B. Allen, Sheriff of Bladen County.

Recommendations

In order to modernize and make the Sheriff's Department more efficient in its work, several recommendations are in order as stated below.

1. Acquire modern computer terminal facilities (Police Information Network - PIN) for staying abreast of criminal movements into or out of Bladen County. The funds for renting this innovation can be acquired through the Cape Fear Criminal Justice Planning Committee using Federal Law Enforcement Agency Acquisition funds.

2. Hire an additional six deputies to better serve the county and give better working hours to all concerned.

3. Purchase an additional six patrol cars and set up a replacement schedule for all patrol cars. Six additional cars will be needed for the new deputies mentioned in 2 above. A two-year replacement schedule for the patrol cars will insure that the cars will not be kept past the initial useful and low maintenance part of their lives.

4. Set up a ready room or lounge room for the deputies. The loss of a vital room to the local magistrate does not give the deputies a room for relaxation, weapon and evidence storage, and other law enforcement general activities. Perhaps the room could be re-acquired from the magistrate or some additional room could be acquired for the Sheriff's office or magistrate from the jailer's quarters which is situated on the end of the building.

5. Need new police network radio system to better stay in contact with local law enforcement agencies. A special police frequency would be helpful to maintain contact with nearby counties, police departments within Bladen County, and the Highway Patrol. A certain frequency could be chosen for emergency purposes and utilized by the Sheriff's Department, municipal police departments, fire departments, rescue squads, hospitals and the Civil Defense office.

Fire Protection

There are six fire departments in Bladen County, all of them operated on a volunteer basis. Basically they cover the Elizabethtown, Bladenboro, Clarkton, Dublin, White Lake, and Kelly areas with very little of the non-municipal parts of the county being covered (see Table 1 for a profile of each department). Approximately two-thirds of the county's population lacks fire protection at this time.

Recommendations.

As is stated in the Sketch Development Plan (1972), nine additional fire districts should be established. In review, the center of the four-mile radius fire districts[3] could be: (1) near the intersection of SR 1741

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[3]National Board of Fire Underwriters, Committee on Engineering. Fire Department Standards ... Changes Effective January, 1963 (Special Interest Bulletin No. 315, New York).

Table I
Profiles of Bladen County's Fire Departments

	Localities					
	Elizabethtown[4]	Bladenboro[5]	Dublin[6]	Clarkton[7]	White Lake[8]	Kelly[9]
Characteristics						
Year Organized	1929	1933	1955	1950	1953	1969
Area Served	Town limits, but will go out 3 miles and charge accordingly	Town limits plus 1 mile if $10 fee yearly is paid	Three mile radius	Town limits $100 charge any call outside limits	Town	Kelly, Lake Creek Twp., part of Pender Co.
Station House Condition	Built - 1955 Good Condition	Built - 1952 Satisfactory	1957- Good Cond.	Built - 1955 Good Condition	1970 Good Condition	1969 Good Condition
Major Equipment (Fire Trucks)	1971 - G.M.C. 1,000 gpm pumper. 1953 - Ford 500 gpm pumper. 1953 - Inter. 2,500 gal, tanker 1942 - Chev. pumper	1965 Howell	1951 Ford 500 gpm.	1972 Ward-LaFrance 750 gpm pump. 1956 Dodge 1,200 gallon tanker 1950 Oren 500 gpm pumper 1930 Ford LaFrance 500 gpm tanker.	1953 Ford 500 pal. pumper. 1971 Howe-Ford 1,000 gpm pumper	1948 GMC 1,000 gal pumper. 1962 Dodge 1,000 gallon tanker
Communication System	Telephone alarm system plus siren in downtown area.	Siren	Telephone system plus siren connection.	Siren, Hot - line telephone system.	Siren, telephone system	Siren C. B. radio
Conduct Fire Prevention Program	Yes - Elementary School	Yes, in the schools	Sometimes	Sometimes	None	None
Fire Inspection Program	Yes - Hospital	Yes - Business district schools	No	No	None	None
Fire Rating	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Personnel Training	33 volunteer local plus Bladen Tech.	19 Volunteer local training	18 Volunteer Bladen Tech.	25 Volunteer local training. State Ins. Dept.trg.	23 Volunteer local, Bladen Tech.	20 Volunteer local train., Bladen Tech.
Plans for Improvements	Expand station house	None at this time	Getting new station	Possibly new municipal building to house fire department	None at this time.	Continuous expansion of building
Recommendations	1.Investiagte feasibility of full-time dept. 2.Inspect all public bldgs. 3.Plan to acquire new or used fire truck less than 20 years old.	1.Plan to acquire used back-up truck 2.Seek training through Bladen Tech. or State Insurance Department.	1.Plan to acquire new 750 gpm pumper.	1.Conduct fire prevent. prog. in schools on reg. basis. 2.Conduct fire Ins. prog. of pub. bld. factories, etc. 3.Seek outside train, through Bladen Tech. or State Ins. Department	1.Plan to acquire used back-up truck less than 20 years old soon.	1.Plan to acquire used reserve truck less than 20 years old soon.

[4]Interview with Mr. Paul Stephens, Elizabethtown Fire Chief

[5]Interview with Mr. J. C. Shaw, Bladenboro Public Works Director

[6]Interview with Mr. Floyd Hursey, Dublin Fire Chief

[7]Interview with Mr. Frank Melvin, Clarkton Assistant Fire Chief

[8]Interview with Mr. Harry Womble, White Lake Fire Chief

[9]Interview with Mr. Sam Potter, Member of Kelly Fire Department

and N. C. 87, (2) at Carver's Crossroads, (3) near Lisbon Community on SR 1713, (4) near the intersection of U. S. 701 and SR 1711, (5) on SR 1'4 between N. C. 131 and N. C. 242, (6) on N. C. 20 near Durat Community, (7) at White Oak Community, (8) at Ammon Community, and (9) at the intersection of U. S. 701 and N. C. 210. Note Figure 2 for a map of the existing and proposed fire districts.

The feasibility of establishing rural volunteer fire departments as recommended in the Sketch Development Plan should be explored for the suggested nine potential fire districts. Existing development and the expected future development, especially resort, make dependable fire protection a must for Bladen County. In addition, fire insurance costs would be proportionately decreased.

It is important to note that essentially only the municipal areas of the county are served by public water systems leaving the great majority of the county land area without proper fire pressure, except from tanker trucks.

Also, Bladen County would be wise to investigate the feasibility of establishing a county-wide water system as recommended in the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Planning Report, Bladen County and the Sketch Development Plan. Overall advantages of such a system are obvious, least of which would be for fire protection and reduced insurance costs.

Rescue Squads

There are three rescue squads in the county. They are headquartered in Elizabethtown, Bladenboro, and Clarkton, and serve as emergency medical aides, providing emergency first aid and/or transportation to the nearest medical center or hospital. They are not connected with any fire department, or other facility, but are rather quasi-public units. A profile of and recommendations for each rescue squad is found in Table 2 followed by some specific recommendations for each department.

Overall Recommendations

It has been mentioned and probably correctly so that a communications system needs to be set up between the various rescue squads and the area hospitals. In the past, rescue squads have arrived at area hospitals to find that adequate help and equipment were not set up for the emergency. Therefore, it is recommended that a feasibility study of this type of system be made. Perhaps this system could be set up in the same framework as the system suggested under the Sheriff's section. No new rescue squads are recommended to be organized at this time.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Bladen County Hospital[13]

The Bladen County Hospital is located on U. S. 701 in Elizabethtown just South of the Central Business District. The hospital was constructed in 1952

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[13] Interview with Mr. B. W. Kilpatrick, Administrator of the Bladen County Hospital.

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RIVER
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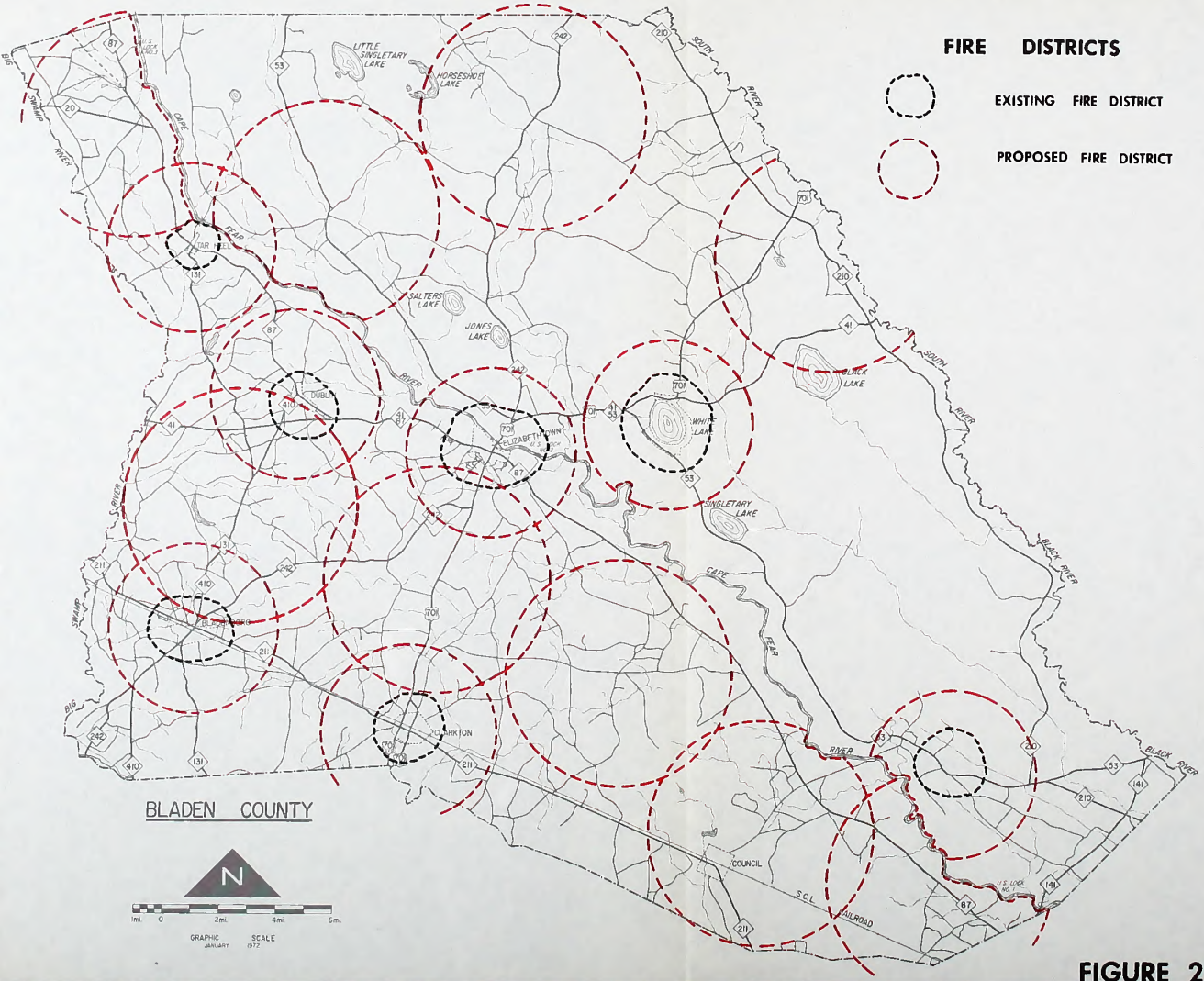
FIRE DISTRICTS
EXISTING FIRE DISTRICT
PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT
BLADEN COUNTY
N
1mi. 0 2mi. 4mi. 6mi.
GRAPHIC SCALE
JANUARY 1972
LITTLE SINGLETARY LAKE
HORSESHOE LAKE
SALTERS LAKE
JONES LAKE
WHITE LAKE
BLACK LAKE
SINGLETARY LAKE
ELIZABETHTOWN
DUBLIN
CLARKTON
COUNCIL
CAPE FEAR RIVER
BIG SWAMP RIVER
SOUTH RIVER
BLACK RIVER
S.C.L. RAILROAD
U.S. LOCK NO. 1

FIGURE 2

Table 2
Profiles of Bladen County's Rescue Squads

Particulars	Localities		
	Elizabethtown[10]	Bladenboro[11]	Clarkton[12]
1. Year organized	1969	1965	1968
2. Condition of structure	Building under construction	Good, but needs some expansion & Renovation. Renting now.	Good
3. Major equipment	1960 Pontiac Amb. 1970 Fort Super Van radio dispatched	1964 Pont. Amb. 1964 Cadillac Ambulance. 1 boat and trailer.	1966 GMC Carry-All. 1961 Cadillac Amb. 1972 Chevy Van Ambulance.
4. Communications	Telephone dispatched by Sheriff's Dept.	Same as Elizabethtown.	Same as Elizabethtown, plus Citizens Band Siren.
5. Personnel	54 volunteers, 2 on call each day.	22 Volunteers.	23 Volunteers.
6. Training Program	State Board of Health program monthly sessions seminars at Chapel Hill.	Bladen Tech. plus local training at twice month meetings.	N.C.Assoc. of Res. Squad of State Board of Health. Local training at twice month meetings. Red Cross & Bladen Tech Inst. training also.
7. Financing	Donations plus $1800 per year from county plus some money from the city.	$1800/year from county plus contributions.	$1800/year from county plus contributions.
8. Area served	North half of Bladen County.	Southwest Bladen County.	Southern part of Bladen County.
9. Future plans	Help Kelly and Tar Heel set up their own units.	Buy building and expand it.	Plans to replace equipment.
10. Recommendations	1. Purchase new ambulance & pertinent equipment. 2. Purchase boat and trailer for water rescue.	1. Buy, renovate, and expand station house. 2. Replace one ambulance within tow years. 3. Replace other ambulance with multi-purpose van.	1. Purchase boat & trailer for water rescue. 2. Purchase new ambulance during next 4 years.

[10]Interview with Mr. Willis Robertson, Chief of Elizabethtown Rescue Squad.

[11]Interview with Mr. Alfred Willoughby, Chief of Bladenboro Rescue Squad.

[12]Interview with Mr. Frank Melvin, Communications Officer with the Clarkton Rescue Squad.

with 31,234 square feet and fifty bed capacity. In 1960 an additional 5,184 square feet were added providing for an additional 10 beds and a Chapel. The land area of the hospital grounds;include building, parking, and landscaping is 6.46 acres.

Recommendations

Being a very demanding, specialized, and in depth type of discipline, hospital planning recommendations are beyond the scope of this study. The hospital Board of Trustees contracted for hospital planning services during 1971 and an in depth planning study of Bladen County Hospital is now available.[14] Basically, the study includes that a new facility is needed due to a number of factors, among which are limited,existing land for expansion which is needed and the general structural and mechanical limitations of the existing facility.

Additional land in the amount of 35 acres recently has been acquired by the hospital board directly behind the present hospital. This will be more than enough room to construct the proposed new hospital with room for landscaping, parking, and later expansions.

The old hospital, when it is vacated, should be studied with the possibility of relocating other county offices here such as the Public Health Department, The Mental Health Department, The Agricultural Extension Service, and the County Library, etc.

Public Health Department[15]

The Bladen County Public Health Department was established in 1921. It has occupied its present 3,000 square foot facility,located adjacent to the Bladen County Hospital, since 1954. The services offered by the Health Department are many and varied, and surpass many other counties in the number of services provided. The services offered include: (1) diabetic screening, (2) immunization, (3) PKU for infants, (4) PAP smears, (5) V. D. blood tests, (6) chest x-rays, (7) hemoglobin counts, (8) uninanalysis, (9) blood typing, (10) pregnancy testing, (11) family planning clinics, (12) prenatal and post partum clinics, (13) chest clinics, (14) eye clinics, (15) T. B. skin tests, (16) school physicals, and (16) public sanitation services. Presently the personnel roster consists of a 2/5 time Health Director (M.D.), four Public Health nurses, two clerks, one-half time x-ray operator, two sanitarians, and two ESEA school nurses.

Recommendations

1. Move the Health Department into larger quarters, preferably into the present Bladen County Hospital if the new hospital is completed (about 1976).

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[14]Snoddy and McCulloch Associates, A Program of Development for Bladen County Hospital, Elizabethtown, North Carolina, (Charlotte, N. C. 1971).

[15]Interview with Nellie R. Bryan, R. N. of the Bladen County Health Department.

2. Hire a Health Director on a retainer or contractual basis to help carry out the medical duties required for Bladen County's Health Department. Also an administrator should be hired to supervise the paper work. Also, hire two additional Registered Public Health Nurses, two additional clerks, and another assistant sanitarian.

3. Inaugurate a Public Health Education Program in the county through the school system, civic organizations, and general public advertising media. Education on public health subjects such as septic tank systems, soils, water systems, rat control, sanitary landfill operations, etc., would be a valuable service to the local community.

Sanitary Landfill[16]

Bladen County is in the first year of a sanitary landfill operation. The site for the landfill is 27 acres in size and located just south of Elizabethtown off U. S. 701. The entire county (municipalities included) is served by the site with the municipalities trucking in their own refuse and the county picking up the rural area's garbage. It is envisioned that the site will serve the county's needs for 20 years.

The rural garbage is picked up from 125 containers strategically placed around the rural parts of the county. Two loader trucks serve the county and empty each container twice per week, while those containers in congested areas are emptied four times per week.

At present, there are seven employees directly connected with the landfill operation, besides the County Sanitarian who oversees the entire operation. Four trucks attendants are responsible for touring the county to empty containers into their loader trucks. Two landfill attendants operate the bulldozer and a two-ton dump truck to properly dispose of the incoming garbage at the landfill site. One reserve man fills in for emergency or vacation periods.

This is the first year of the operation, as stated earlier; consequently, there is little past history to learn or plan from at this time. The future expansion of the present program depends partly on the continuing interest of the people in utilizing the containers for trash disposal. If continued interest is shown by having the present containers utilized more and more to capacity, pressure will be placed on the county to distribute additional containers, put on additional loader trucks, and eventually put on an additional bulldozer at the site, and then fill in the site.

At the present level of service, not counting possible future expansisons in service, the heavy equipment and containers will be depreciating capital assets, which should be replaced according to some type of schedule.

In summary, serious thought should be given to paying for new equipment and new salaries when increased services are demanded. Replacement costs of existing and future equipment will also have to be considered. The county has taken a positive step forward in providing community services, but will have

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[16] Interview with Mr. C. M. Wicker, Bladen County Sanitarian.

to face the responsibility of maintaining it and expanding it as the people need it.

Recommendations

1. Plan to replace each piece of heavy equipment (loader truck, bulldozer, and truck) every five yards on a staggered basis.

2. Plan to replace containers on a need basis.

3. Have foresight and be flexible in expanding services before trash problems overwhelm present equipment and site.

4. The present landfill site will reach capacity by 1992. A new site should be selected and acquired between 1985 and 1992.

Water and Sewer Systems

Utility service areas for rural unincorporated Bladen County are non-existent. The six municipalities of Bladen County, (Bladenboro, Tar Heel, Clarkton, Dublin, Elizabethtown, and White Lake) own and maintain their own water distribution systems. The unincorporated area of White Oak presently has its own public water system. All the municipalities,except Dublin, own and operate their own sewerage systems. Public water systems mentioned above are, with few exceptions, both inadequate in treatment and capacity.

A county-wide water and sewer study was completed in 1967.[17] This plan basically calls for the establishment of a county-wide distribution system with raw water being taken from the Cape Fear River and then treated and stored near Dublin. The sewerage plan calls for each municapality to improve or install its own system. Rural areas are not included in the sewerate plans; so consequently, this area should plan to maintain private septic systems where satisfactory soil conditions and lot sizes permit.

Recommendations

1. Short Term Priorities (Fiscal Years 1973-78). It is recommended in the water and sewer study for Bladen County that the county develop a county-wide water system. It would extract its water from the Cape Fear River and then treat and store the water near Dublin. The municipalities would retain their own storage facilities and distribution lines. The individual wells of the municipalities would be kept for emergency use. First priority on water distribution lines in Bladen County should be as follows: (1) line from Elizabethtown to Bay Tree Lake via White Lake, (2) line from Dublin to Bladenboro along N. C. 131, (3) line from Bladenboro to Clarkton along N. C. 211, (4) line from Clarkton to Elizabethtown along U. S. 701,and (5) line from Elizabethtown back to Dublin along N. C. 87. The upgrading of existing municipal water systems should be undertaken as soon as time and funds allow. Sewage treatment and collection facilities are restricted to the municipalities at present. Recommendations are to upgrade present facilities and

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[17]Henningson, Durham, Richardson, Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Planning Report, Bladen County, (Charlotte, N. C.) 1967.

collection systems in the towns and let the rural areas operate on septic systems. Sewerage improvements should be begun in all communities as called for in the water and sewer planning report.

2. Intermediate Term Priorities (Fiscal Years 1978-1983). During this time frame, municipalities should seek to provide water and sewer services for all areas within their corporate limits and all built-up areas contiguous to the towns, Water extensions to rural areas should be offered in the following manner: (1) line from Bladenboro to Elizabethtown along N. C. 242, (2) line along SR 1700 from Clarkton to Elizabethtown, (3) line along N. C. 211 from Bladenboro to Robeson County line, (4) line along N. C. 211 from Clarkton to Council, and (5) along N. C. 87 from Dublin North to the Durat Community.

3. Long Term Priorities (Fiscal Years 1983-1993). Complete all water and sewer projects not yet completed as called for in the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Planning Report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Public School System[18]

Bladen County operates a consolidated school system with a county school board overseeing all schools in the county. The school superintendent, as a professional educator, supervises and administrates to the needs and problems of the school system on a day to day basis.

At present, there are fourteen public schools operating in Bladen County, with a net decrease of four schools in the past five years. Consolidation of schools primarily has affected the upper grades, producing fewer, but better quality junior and senior high school educational programs. In the near future, the entire county might be served by just two high schools (grades 9 - 12). Recently opened is East Bladen High School at Elizabethtown and the other high school projected to take care of the remaining high school needs is West Bladen High School to be located in the Bladenboro - Dublin - Tar Heel area. Consolidation will mean longer trips to schools for some children, but the advantages of attending modern, well equipped schools certainly outweighs any negative factors. The increasing age of some or all the retired and still active school structures also must be a determining factor in school consolidation (four active schools about 50 years or older). See Table 3 for the names of the schools, their grade levels, and their enrollments as of September, 1972.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning[19] has been very helpful in drawing plans for future school expansions, creations, closings, and consolidations in Bladen County. With

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[18] Interview with Mr. W. J. Hair, Bladen County School Superintendent.

[19] Division of School Planning, School Survey, Bladen County 1969-1970 (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh) 1969.

Table 3
School Enrollment, Bladen County - September, 1972

SCHOOLS	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total Elem.	9	10	11	12	Total H. S.	Grand Total
B.T. Washington					76	71	90	103	99	439						439
Bladen Elem.				138	132	139	149			558						558
Bladenboro	69	134	110	142	121	132	122			761	140	128	111	119	498	1259
Clarkton	45	85	66	83						234	91	98	84	72	345	579
Dublin	23	44	41	47	38	45	55	58	31	359						359
East Arcadia	45	44	62	55	58	64	59	78	69	489	49				49	538
East Bladen												301	226	180	707	707
Elizabethtown Junior High								153	163	316	226				226	542
Elizabethtown Primary	46	152	142							294						294
Hickory Grove	22	26	34	25	38	39	31	30	30	253						253
Plain View	23	34	38	31	41	33	34			211						211
Spaulding-Monroe								141	157	298						298
Tar Heel								43	42	85	135	126	92	68	421	506
White Oak	23	34	44	25	29	38	24	27	32	253						253
TOTAL		553	537	546	533	561	564	633	623	4550	641	653	513	439	2246	6786
	296															7082

Source: Bladen County Board of Education

the assistance of that agency and of Mr. W. J. Hair, School Superintendent for Bladen County, the following general recommendations are made to implement proposed plans which would in turn bring Bladen County up to state standards.

Recommendations

1. Over the next six years construct and/or renovate 170 instructional stations (classrooms). In order to bring Bladen County up to state standards and reduce the number of inadequate classrooms (stationary and mobile) and reduce overcrowded conditions. This would be done at most all of the schools.

2. Over the next six years construction and/or renovate ten (10) library-media centers. These renovations and additions will be extremely important to the cultural and educational successes of the various school plants.

3. Over the next six years construct three (3) lunchrooms on new sites. One would be at the proposed West Bladen High School , another at a primary school to be built in Northern Bladen County, and the third at an unnamed school at present.

4. Over the next six years construct two (2) new gymanasiums and two (2) new multi-purpose facilities. One gymnasium would be at East Bladen and one at West Bladen High School. East Arcadia and Dublin would be the school sites for the multi-purpose facilities.

5. Over the next six years twelve (12) new Kindergarten classrooms should be constructed with a proposed distribution such as:

   3 - Elizabethtown Primary School
   2 - Dublin Elementary School
   2 - East Arcadia Elementary School
   2 - Plainview Elementary School
   2 - Clarkton Elementary School
   1 - Hickory Grove Elementary School or the new North Bladen Elementary School

6. Acquire 100 acres of land for two school sites as soon as possible. The proposed West Bladen High School site should be approximately 65 acres in size, while the proposed elementary school site on the North side of the Cape Fear River should be about 35 acres in size.

Bladen County Library[20]

The Bladen County Library is located in the basement of the courthouse in Elizabethtown. The courthouse is open only during weekday working hours, consequently the library is closed to potential patrons at nights and on weekends. Furthermore, the existing space of approximately 1,625 square feet is utilized beyond capacity.

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[20] Interview with Mrs. Evelyn Williford, County Librarian.

The County supports two full-time employees and two part-time employees with the remainder of the employees being employed under federal programs. Project Outreach (funded by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare) which seeks to spread literature and culture into the rural areas, provides two full-time employees, while there is room for two additional full-time employees and one summer employee in the program. Four PACE Program workers were utilized in the library during the summer of 1972.

The library's largest piece of equipment is its 1957 Bookmobile which is of limited size and capabilities for its multi-media out-reach work. The bookmobile goes out only twice per week because of a money shortage. One step van, "Bizzy Bus", is utilized to reach pre-schoolers. A "Bus" is donated on a rotating basis by the local automobile agencies. In addition the library utilizes the following pieces of sight and sound equipment in its work:

1 - 16 mm projector
2 - Super 8 sound projectors
6 - film viewers
6 - tape recorded cassett players
1 - audience size tape recorder
1 - record player

The library contains 27,549 volumes which are distributed among the county library, the Bladenboro Library, the Clarkton Library, and the Bookmobile. This works out to be about one volume per person in the county, two times less the ratio of two books per person recommended as a national standard. Also available are fifteen Super 8 and 16 mm films, 150 record albums, and art prints.

Recommendations

1. A new library building is needed immediately in order to adequately serve the citizens of Bladen County. Temporary quarters should be found now so the library can be open to serve the public at nights and on weekends while the new library is being completed. The new library should be at least 7,000 square feet in area.[21]

2. The County should purchase a new Bookmobile and provide the funds to operate it so that its unique mission can be more easily accomplished.

3. Another "Bizzy Bus" could be provided to help spread cultural and educational stimulation to pre-school children.

4. The County should make every attempt to acquire additional books to bring the book-person ratio in Bladen County to 2 to 1 from the present 1 to 1. This should be accomplished in the next five years by acquiring 6,000 additional volumes per year.

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[21] American Library Association, Subcommittee on Standards for Small Libraries, Public Library Association, Interum Standards for Small Public Libraries: Guidelines. (Chicage: The Association, 1962).

Bladen Technical Institute[22]

Bladen Technical Institute was established in 1967 to provide educational programs for adults in one of the following areas: Basic education, high school equivalency education, vocational and technical education, or a junior college education. After several years of working out of temporary quarters the Institute moved to a permanent 25 acre campus at Dublin, North Carolina, in 1971. At present, the Institute occupies two modern structures, a shop building and a classroom - administration building. There are approximately 150 students part-time or full-time on campus and a faculty and administrative staff of 34 combined on campus, at this time.

At present, more construction is taking place in the form of an additional shop building. Future plans call for a separate administration building, two additional classroom buildings, a sheltered workshop building, and a student activities building. Open space and parking area will occupy the remainder of the 25 acres.

Recommendations

1. Hire an additional 20 personnel in faculty and administrative positions to aid in offering additional and a more varied number of programs and classwork.

2. Construct a student activities building of 15,000 square feet. This building would include relaxational, library, and indoor recreational facilities.

3. Construct an additional classroom building of 15,000 square feet to help relieve the pressure on the existing administration classroom building. Additional laboratory, classroom, and office space would be included in the new structure.

4. Acquire additional teaching aid equipment on a year to year basis choosing from a list of needs as follows: (2) automotive lifts, (2) diagnostic sets, electro-cardiograph, (2) precision centrifuges, an incubator, some additional microscopes, an autoclave, cosmetology equipment, an offset duplicator, a greenhouse, an environmental chamber, and a printing room-dark room.

RECREATION

As discussed in the Sketch Development Plan, there is no organized county recreation program in Bladen County sponsored either by the county or its municipalities. The schools, of course, offer organized recreation during school hours and the school's outside facilities are open after school, on weekends, and during the summer. Summer baseball and softball programs are sponsored by local civic organizations.

Bladen County is blessed with abundant outdoor recreational outlets. There are a series of state owned, clear water lakes located in eastern

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[22]Interview with Col. George I. Resseguie, President of Bladen Technical Institute.

Bladen County. White Lake is a privately developed lake, as is Bay Tree Lake (formerly Black Lake) which is presently being developed. Jones Lake is the site of a state park as is a small portion of Bay Tree Lake. Salters Lake, Singletary Lake, and Little Singletary Lake are used primarily for private recreational purposes. Two golf courses are located in the county, one at White Lake and one between Elizabethtown and Bladenboro. Three public picnic areas are found in the county. These picnic areas are located one each at the three Army Corps of Engineers Locks along the Cape Fear River.

Recreation should no longer be considered a luxury service to be provided by government, but rather recreation should be considered a necessary service and expense. Recreation can no longer be equated only with active sports, but should also cover arts and crafts, passive outdoor recreation (picnicking, nature walsks, etc.), and specialty individual sports (bowling, chess, tennis, golf, etc.). Recreation also should not be thought of as an activity only for the young and the male sex, but in one form or another can be applied to everyone. The organized recreation program can provide most activities for most everyone with the proper facilities and professional recreational guidance available.

Recommendations

1. Create a county advisory recreation commission which would make recreation recommendations to the county commissioners, be empowered to apply for recreation grants, and supervise a county recreation program. A master plan for county recreation should be prepared outlining the scope and content of the county recreation program. The Division of Recreation, Department of Natural and Economic Resources, is available to give technical assistance along these lines.

2. Work with the county school system to co-utilize the schools recreation facilities for implementing passive and active recreation programming.

3. Hire a county recreation director-coordinator to help implement a passive and active county recreation program for young and old, male and female.

AIRPORT FACILITIES[3]

Airport facilities are very limited in Bladen County with an "air strip" designation probably a more apt description of the facilities. The most modern air facility in the county is the one near Elizabethtown. The air strip is located about one mile south of Elizabethtown off N. C. 87. There are two grass runways located there, one of 3,400 feet and one of 2,500 feet. Limited hanger facilities and a rudimentary lighting setup are available also. Fuel is available on a request basis from Elizabethtown. Several private planes are based here and many others use the facility at various times.

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[23] Interview with Mr. Woodrow Fussell, Executive Director, Bladen County Industrial Development Commission.

The other two air strip facilities are located at White Lake and Bladenboro. These two facilities are basic 2,400 foot grass runways with essentially no supportive facilities.

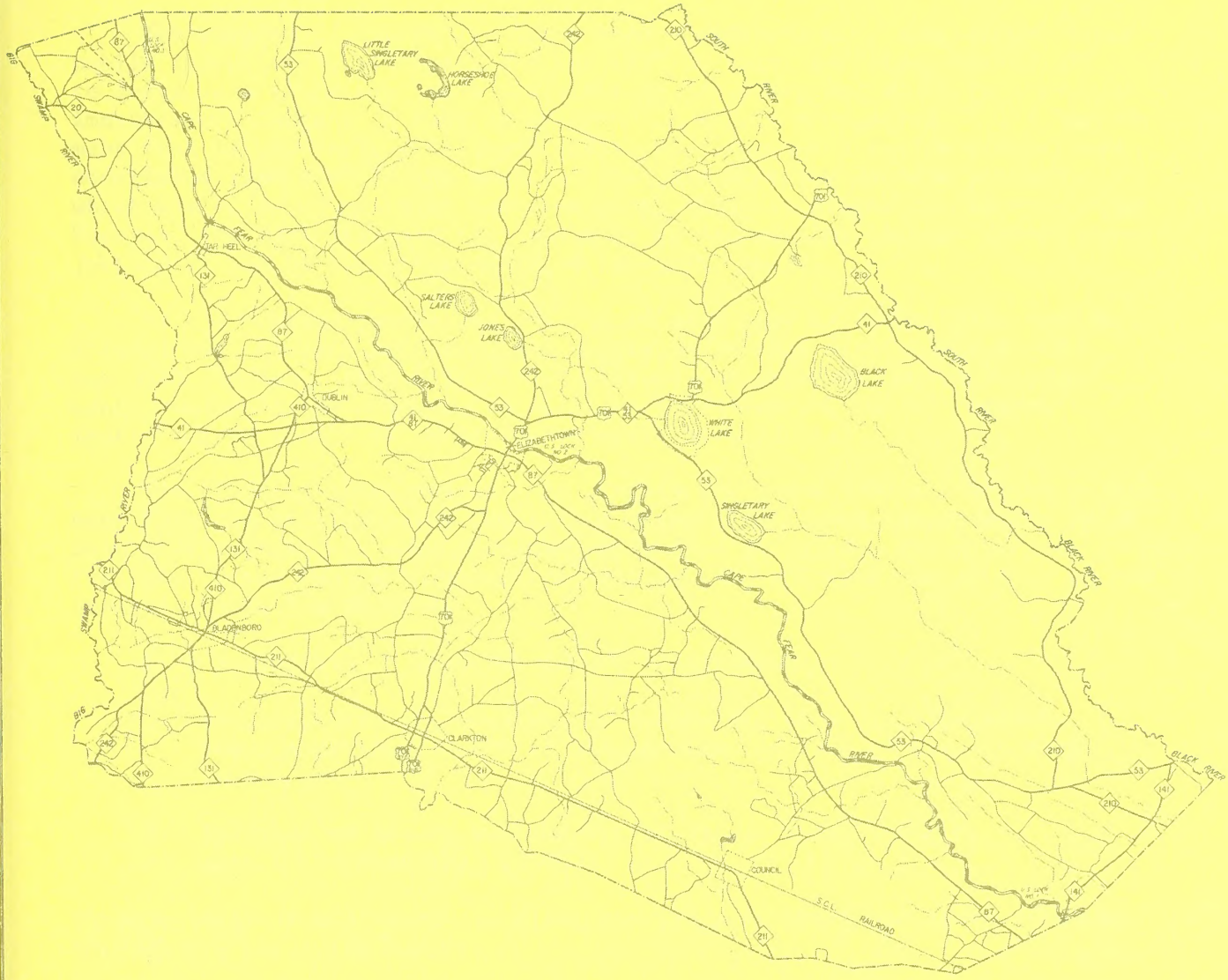
The nearest airports of any size are located in Lumberton, Fayetteville, and Wilmington where larger aircraft and scheduled flights (except Lumberton) are available.

Recommendations

1. Have the Federal Aviation Agency prepare an airport feasibility study for Bladen County.

2. Pave at least the 3,400 foot runway at the Elizabethtown airstrip.

3. Install proper airport illumination for safe airport operation at the Elizabethtown airport.



PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Public Improvements Program is to outline the total public improvements necessary for the next 20 years in Bladen County and to serve as a guide for local officials in preparing and adopting a Capital Improvements Budget. A capital improvement may be considered as any improvement that is physical, considered relatively large in size, permanent, and considered expensive by the county. The list does not include projects which are to be financed by agencies other than the Bladen County government. However, the list will aid the community in determining whether future projects will aid in the achievement of community goals.

As the program progresses and the 20 year goal is approached, circumstances will dictate additions and deletions to this list; however, at any point in time, this list should reflect the physical public improvements needed in the county. To maintain relevancy the Public Improvements Program should be re-evaluated every five years.

The projects contained in this program are drawn from the Sketch Development Plan and the Community Facilities Plan. Additional improvements which county officials felt were necessary were also included. For a project to be included in the Public Improvements Program, it must meet one or more of the qualifications listed below:

1. Acquisition of land for future improvement.

2. Construction, improvement, or remodeling of a facility which costs more than $1,000 or has an expected life of five or more years.

3. Purchase of new or replacement equipment which whole or in part costs more than $1,000.

These guidelines will serve to eliminate projects which should be financed through the operating budget.

Goals of the Public Improvements Program

The Public Improvements Program will allow future improvements to be scheduled at the time and in the sequence best for effective and economic operation. The program will enable local officials to:

1. Face more responsively the long-range problem of allocating the county's limited financial resources.

2. Outline and schedule the physical improvements necessary to reach the goals of the county.

3. Plan for the minimum necessary bonded indebtedness.

4. Serve as a means to help implement the Sketch Land Development Plan and Community Facilities Plan.

5. Provide the basis for the first five-year Capital Improvements Budget.

Increments in the Public Improvements Program and Its Relationship to the Capital Improvements Budget

The Public Improvements Program covers a span of 20 fiscal years, July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1993. In order to provide flexibility and to coincide with the Capital Budget periods, the Public Improvements Program is broken down into four five-year periods: July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1978; July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1983; July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1988; and July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1993. Projects are not assigned to specific years within each period in order to allow for flexibility in preparing the Capital Improvements Budget.

As has been indicated before, this list can and will change. Projects will be added to and deleted from the program, and projects will be shifted between periods. Before any changes are made, the projects involved should be thoroughly examined to determine the effect of the proposed change on the objectives of the Public Improvements Program and the Capital Improvements Budget.

It lies more within the framework of the shorter range Capital Improvements Budget than the longer range Public Improvements Program to detail the cost of each project and the method of financing. Project costs could double or triple between the time the cost is estimated and the year of financing arrives. New materials and techniques could reduce or increase project costs. New sources for financing projects may be created or old ones lost or modified. Finally, the exact scale of the project may not be determined until plans and specifications are finished.

All items in the first Public Improvements Program period to be locally financed should appear in the initial five-year Capital Improvements Budget. At the end of the first Capital Budget year, the second improvement program period should be examined for the most pressing projects and these should be programmed for the fifth year of the Capital Improvements Budget. By the end of the first five year Capital Improvements Budget, all of the projects to be locally financed in the second five year Public Improvements Program will be scheduled in the new five year Capital Improvements Budget.

TWENTY-YEAR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR BLADEN COUNTY

The Public Improvements Program for Bladen County includes only the public improvements for which the county is directly responsible and which must be provided for in the county's Capital Improvements Budget.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL 1973-1978

Improvement Items	Justification
1. Remodel present hospital to accommodate Public Health Department, Mental Health Clinic, County Library and possibly the Agricultural Extension Service.	1. The new county hospital when built will provide additional county office space which could be best used by these agencies because of their present crowded conditions.
2. Build new County Library Building.	2. The Bladen County Library is extremely cramped for space, and because it is located in the County Courthouse, its hours are very limited.
3. Acquire Police Information Network Computer System for Sheriff's Department.	3. This system will enable the Sheriff's Department to stay abrest of criminal activities in and around Bladen County.
4. Purchase seven patrol cars for the Sheriff's Department every two years.	4. This is done to insure dependable safe, and low maintenance transportation. Additionally this would be a predictable and easily planned for expense.
5. Build new county hospital.	5. The existing hospital is inadequate in almost every respect.
6. Replace landfill equipment on a staggered time basis at five year intervals.	6. The landfill equipment should be replaced on a regular, but staggered basis to insure low maintenance and high performance.
7. Build water treatment plant and storage facilities for county-wide water system.	7. The unincorporated areas of the county are in need of a reliable, non-pollutable water source. The municipal areas of Bladen County would have the benefit of a nearly unlimited water supply.
8. Acquire 100 acres of land for school sites (65 for high school and 35 acres for elementary school).	8. This land should be purchased before it is developed for some other purpose and before the price increases beyond a reasonable level.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL 1973-1978 CONT'D.

Improvement Items	Justification
9. Additional school facilities are needed in the form of 120 permanent classrooms, 6 library-media centers, 3 lunchrooms, 2 gymnasiums, and 2 multi-purpose facilities.	9. These are needed to provide the highest quality education for the children in Bladen County.
10. Purchase a new Bookmobile and Bizzy Bus.	10. These media vehicles help spread education and culture to those in the country who normally would never be reached.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL 1978-1983

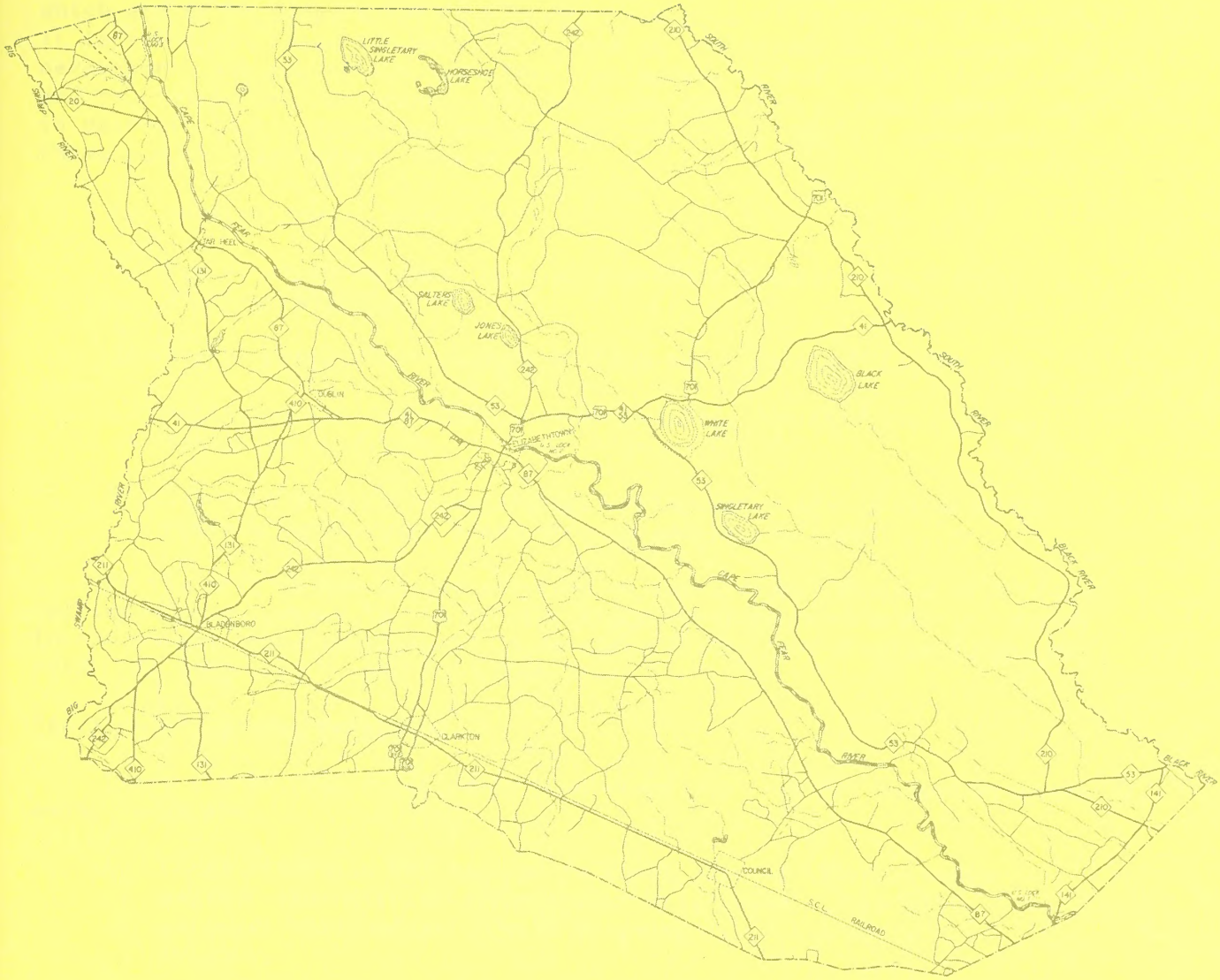
Improvement Items	Justification
1. Purchase new patrol cars for the Sheriff's Department every two years.	1. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.
2. Purchase new sanitary landfill equipment every five years	2. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.
3. Construct a water distribution system from White Lake to Elizabethtown to Dublin to Bladenboro to Clarkton then back to Elizabethtown.	3. These areas are some of the most densely populated sections of Bladen County with the greatest need for a reliable and plentiful water supply.
4. Additional school facilities are needed in the form of 50 additional permanent classrooms and 4 library-media centers.	4. These are needed to provide the highest quality education for the children in Bladen County.
5. Pave a 3,400 foot strip at the Elizabethtown airport, provide proper illumination, and fuel availability.	5. These airport improvements will make air travel safer and easier and industry more interested in Bladen County.
6. Construct a Student Activities building at Bladen Technical Institute.	6. Social, recreational, and study activities could be carried on this building.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL 1983-1988

Improvement Items	Justification
1. Purchase new patrol cars for the Sheriff's Department every two years.	1. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.
2. Purchase new sanitary landfill equipment every five years.	2. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.
3. Purchase additional land for sanitary landfill operation.	3. This would be done so that adequate land would be available upon the completion of the present landfill.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL 1988-1993

Improvement Items	Justification
1. Purchase new patrol cars for the Sheriff's Department every two years.	1. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.
2. Purchase new sanitary landfill equipment every five years.	2. Same as #4 under Fiscal Years 1973-1978.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

PURPOSE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

The Capital Improvements Budget is the list of public improvements which are to be financed by the county government over the next five years. It is the short-range financial tool used by the county to help accomplish development and public service goals, to upgarde levels of deficient services, and to provide new facilities when and where necessary. The capital budget is part of the overall annual budget for the county, but it covers only those budget items which involve:

1. Acquisition of land.

2. New or expanded facilities of a permanent nature which cost at least $1,000.

3. New or replacement equipment which costs at least $1,000.

4. Replacement or remodeling of an existing facility with the cost amounting to $1,000.

5. The cost of architectural engineering and planning studies for capital improvement items when in excess of $1,000.

By the very nature of the expenses of these items combined with their infrequent reoccurence in the budget; these expenditures cannot be covered in the normal operating budget. A special Capital Improvements Budget is needed to help plan to pay for these items.

Benefits of Capital Budgeting

There are several benefits to be derived from capital budget programming, among these are:

1. Local officials can gain an in-depth view of the necessary capital expenditures for the next five years. This will increase their efficiency in weighing the worth of each project.

2. The capital budgeting process will allow officials to plan for the minimum long-term debt. Public exposure to the Capital Improvements Budget will help gain sufficient county support to insure a favorable result in any bond referendum.

3. Adoption of a Capital Improvements Budget will allow sufficient time for necessary project studies and review. Lead time is also available for site selection and land or right-of-way acquisition.

4. The adoption of a Capital Improvements Budget will allow sufficient time for contacting state and federal officials to determine the availability of grants and laons for eligible projects.

5. Over a period of time, the Capital Improvements Budget should promote the establishment of a moderately stable annual level of expenditures.

Sources and Qualifications of Projects

Projects included in the Capital Improvements Budget were taken from the Public Improvements Program (see section which preceded this section). The Capital Improvements Budget is the last step in the logical and orderly process of identifying needed projects (Community Facilities Plan), setting time priorities concerning implementing the projects (Public Improvements Program), and the method of financing these improvements (Capital Improvements Budget).

Duties of Elected Officials

The elected officials of Bladen County have the responsibility to review and study the proposals suggested in the Capital Improvements Budget. Only after their review can it be determined which projects can and will be approved and to what extent they are to be carried out.

Each project receives official consideration on at least two occasions. The first is at the public hearing on the annual budget. The Commissioners may adopt any or all of the projects for the year in the annual budget. The second review takes place when the expenditure for a project is authorized by the Commissioners. On either of these occasions, the Commissioners may defer a project for consideration to another time.

PRESENT FINANCIAL CONDITION

Bladen County traditionally has been operated on a tight budget with a minimum debt level at any one time. Despite the tight budget the county has been able to show some surplus of funds after most fiscal years. The cumulative surplus existing at the end of the 1971-1972 fiscal year was $729,896.

Bladen County, like governments at all levels, has not escaped the rising cost of services and facilities. In the past ten years, the operating budget for Bladen County has increased by two and one half times. The General Fund has tripled in size over the ten-year period. All of the social services funds are up, ranging from 20 to 300 percent. Several new funds have been started in the past ten years including the Medicaid Fund, the Medical Assistance to the Aged Fund, the Facilities Fee Fund, and the Law Library Fund.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROJECTIONS

The financial future of a community can many times be predicted from an examination of its financial history. Revenues and expenditures for past, present, and future years are shown in Table 4. For fiscal years 1967-

Table 4
BLADEN COUNTY
FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROJECTIONS

Year	Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Percent Evaluation	Tax Revenue	Percent Collection	Revenue Other Than Taxes	1 Cent Sale Tax	General Revenue Sharing	Total Received	Expenditure	Projected Capital Outlay	Total Debt Service
1967-68	44,094,953	1.85	35.00	824,941	99.4	814,733	--	--	1,639,647	1,227,357	--	--
1968-69	62,996,749	1.39	50.00	882,923	99.1	873,580	--	--	1,756,503	1,279,939	--	--
1969-70	65,637,078	1.57	50.00	1,023,759	99.8	1,196,000	--	--	2,219,765	1,585,753	--	--
1970-71	68,692,592	1.69	50.00	1,151,952	97.8	1,655,423	--	--	2,807,375	2,317,953	--	--
1971-72	72,947,039	1.57	50.00	1,034,606	88.8	2,387,725	139,950	--	3,562,281	2,805,390	--	909,351
1972-73	81,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,171,268	96.0	2,766,261	200,000	482,421	4,619,950	3,186,773	--	832,200
1973-74	84,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,214,468	96.0	3,144,797	210,000	560,000	5,129,265	3,568,111	816,000	758,800
1974-75	87,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,257,668	96.0	3,523,333	220,000	600,000	5,601,001	3,949,494	501,843	685,400
1975-76	90,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,300,868	96.0	3,901,869	230,000	600,000	6,032,737	4,330,877	524,243	612,000
1976-77	93,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,344,068	96.0	4,286,405	240,000	600,000	6,464,473	4,721,260	561,843	538,600
1977-78	96,338,149	1.50	50.00	1,387,268	96.0	4,667,941	250,000	--	6,305,209	5,093,243	824,243	465,200

1968 through 1971-72, the information comes from the yearly Audit Report. The projections for fiscal years 1973-1978 were determined as follows.

1. Assessed Valuation. The addition of the new Dupont plant explains the large increase in the assessed valuation between 1971-72 and 1972-73. The years which were projected, 1973-1978, show a three million dollar increase each year which is indicative of past trends.

2. Tax Rate. For projection purposes, the $1.50 rate was used. This rate is an average of past tax rates.

3. Percent Evaluation. The 50 percent assessment ratio was maintained through the projections. This could vary after the revaluation year, 1974-75, when 100 percent may be used.

4. Tax Revenue. A ninety-six percent collection rate was used for projection purposes, which is an average of the immediate past years. The Bladen County tax collector has been collecting over ninety-nine percent in recent years.

5. Revenue Other Than Taxes and Expenditures. The average increase between 1968-1972 was used for this projection. These are primarily funds from state and federal sources.

6. One Cent Sale Tax. Based on current sales, a $10,000 increase is projected for each year.

7. General Revenue Sharing. The fiscal years 1972-73 and 1973-74 are based on amounts already received. The other entitlement period (1974-1978) is projected on the national amount to be allocated to general revenue sharing.

8. Projected Capital Outlay. The projects in the first five years were decided upon after review of the Community Facilities Plan, meeting with the department head, the planning board, and the county auditor.

9. Total Debt Service. These amounts came from the Office of the Local Government Commission. The debt service will be affected by the passage of the hospital bond election called for in November of 1973, and any school bonds that may be forth coming.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS

1. New Social Service Building. The county commissioners have decided on this project using some of the money received during the first entitlement period of General Revenue Sharing. This building will greatly increase the social service function in Bladen County and open up needed space in the Courthouse.

2. New Library. This project is projected in the last year of the five year period. The library is now located in the basement of the Courthouse and because of this, is closed at night and on weekends.

3. Sheriff's Department. The bulk of the capital outlay for the Sheriff's Department is to cover the cost of new vehicles and a communication system. The communication system is funded primarily by the Federal Government.

4. Landfill Equipment. This funding is to replace the front loader and containers, along with other equipment necessary to maintain the county landfill operation.

5. New County Hospital. This project is to be determined by vote of the citizens of Bladen County in November of 1973.

6. County Water System. The County Commissioners should consider the proposed water system outlined in the Bladen County comprehensive water and sewer planning study completed in 1968. The amounts projected in this report represent some current estimates and only include a portion of the system. It is recommended that the funding for a water system come from the sale of bonds. It should be noted that a 25% grant under the Clean Water Bond Act could be applied for in reference to the Bladen County System. One of the objective criteria for receiving the Clean Water Bond money is that the County show the water system will pay for itself in the first year of operation. The problem here would involve many decisions, however, should the commissioners decide to go with the county water system, every effort should be made to obtain the Clean Water Bond Grant. The proposed budget of $2,100,000 would cover the cost of a pumping station, a treatment plant, and two 500,000 gallon storage tanks. The plant would be located north of Dublin on the Cape Fear River. The $3,000,000 amount would cover approximately 30 miles of 8 inch water lines. This will not complete the system, but would serve the towns of Tar Heel, Dublin, Bladenboro, Clarkton, and Elizabethtown, and areas in between.

7. Education. The Board of Education has projected a six million dollar requirement to satisfy the school system of Bladen County during the first five year period. We are suggesting that part of the total come from the budget process and part from bond election and sale of bonds.

Further study of the proposed projects for Bladen County's five year Capital Improvements Program can be determined by examining Table 5. Following Table 5 are individual project sheets on each proposed project to more fully explain the funding and rationale for each project.

Table 5
BLADEN COUNTY
SUMMARY OF PROJECTS
(Cost Estimates)

Projects	Estimated Project Cost						Budget Year	Fiscal Year			
Class	Total	County	Federal	State	Bonds	Other	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Social Services Building	250,000	250,000					250,000				
New Library	300,000	300,000									300,000
Sheriff Department Pin System	7,372	7,372						1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843
Transportation	44,800	44,800							22,400		22,400
Communications	32,000	6,000	24,000	2,000			6,000				
New County Hospital	3,500,000				2,500,000	1,000,000					
Landfill Equipt.	120,000	120,000					60,000			60,000	
County Water System Treatment Plant & Storage	2,100,000				2,100,000						
Distribution System	3,000,000				3,000,000						
Education	6,065,000	2,500,000			3,565,000		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total	15,419,172	3,228,172	24,000	2,000	11,165,000	1,000,000	816,000	501,843	524,243	561,843	824,243
Revenue Sharing							560,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	--
Tax Revenue							256,000				824,243

DEPARTMENT Education	PROJECT TITLE: Capital Improvements						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$6,065,000		$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$6,065,000		$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000

Project Description: Classrooms, lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and auditoriums, kindergarten classrooms.

Project Justification: Based on School Survey.

Programming and Elements: $5,965,000 for school facilities.

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: $100,000 for land.

Relationship to other Projects: Minimal

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: $2,500,000 to come from Tax Revenue and general Revenue Sharing.
$3,565,000 from Bond Issue.

DEPARTMENT County Administration	PROJECT TITLE: County Water System						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$5,100,000						
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$5,100,000						

Project Description: A water treatment plant, pumps, elevated tanks, and distribution system.

Project Justification: Based on comprehensive water and sewer planning reports.

Programming and Elements: $5,100,000

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: To be acquired

Relationship to other Projects: supportive

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: Bond Issue and Grant from Clean Water Bond Act of North Carolina.

DEPARTMENT Health Department	PROJECT TITLE: Landfill Equipment						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$120,000		$60,000			$60,000	
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$120,000		$60,000			$60,000	

Project Description: Loader trucks, bulldozer, and containers.

Project Justification: To maintain solid wate program in Bladen County.

Programming and Elements: $120,000

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: None

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: Current Revenue

DEPARTMENT Hospital Board	PROJECT TITLE: New County Hospital						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$3,500,000						
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$3,500,000						

Project Description: New County Hospital

Project Justification: Feasibility study completed in November 1971.

Programming and Elements: Construction Cost $3,500,000

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: Minimal

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: $2,500,000 Bond Issue in November 1973.
$1,000,000 Cash on hand.

DEPARTMENT Sheriff Department	PROJECT TITLE: Communications System						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$6,000		$6,000				
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$6,000		$6,000				

Project Description: New base station and two-way units in patrol cars.

Projection Justification: To up-date law enforcement system.

Programming and Elements: None

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: Law enforcement element

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: $6,000 Current Revenue
$24,000 Federal
$2,000 State

DEPARTMENT Sheriff's Department	PROJECT TITLE: Transportation						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$44,800				$22,400		$22,400
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$44,800				$22,400		$22,400

Project Description: Fourteen patrol cars for Sheriff and Deputies.

Project Justification: Need to maintain an up-to-date fleet of patrol vehicles.

Programming and Elements: $44,800

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: Law enforcement element

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: Current Revenue

DEPARTMENT Sheriff's Department	PROJECT TITLE: P. I. N. System						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$7,372			$1,843	$1,843	$1,843	$1,843
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$7,372			$1,843	$1,843	$1,843	$1,843

Project Description: Part of state-wide instant identification system.

Project Justification: Strengthen law enforcement process in Bladden County.

Programming and Elements: This equipment rents for $1,843 per year.

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: An important part of any communication center.

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: Current Revenues.

DEPARTMENT County Administration	PROJECT TITLE: New Library						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$300,000						$300,000
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$300,000						$300,000

Project Description: New building to house Bladen County Library.

Project Justification: Library now located in basement of Courthouse. More space is needed.

Programming and Elements: Construction $300,000

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: Not decided

Relationship to other Projects: Would release needed room in Courthouse to house other County functions.

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: Current Revenue.

DEPARTMENT Social Service	PROJECT TITLE: New Social Service Building						
PROJECT ESTIMATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	PRIOR AUTHOR-IZATIONS	BUDGET YEAR 1973-74	FISCAL YEARS			
				1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
PRIMARY PROJECT COST	$250,000		$250,000				
SECONDARY PROJECTS							
TOTAL PROJECT COST	$250,000		$250,000				

Project Description: New Social Service Building to house this County function now located in Bladen County Courthouse.

Project Justification: Current office space is inadequate, Provide additional space in Courthouse.

Programming and Elements: Construction $250,000 - 1973-74

Land (R-O-W) Requirements: None

Relationship to other Projects: Located close to County Hospital

Operating Budget Effect: None

Plan of Financing: General Revenue Sharing. Fund from the first entitlement period.

APPENDIX A

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Abstract. The Community Facilities Plan for Bladen County evaluates public facilities and services in terms of present and future needs and outlines the public improvements that would be needed in future years. The Public Improvements Program arranges the improvement needs by priority into five year periods over a twenty year period. The Capital Improvements Budget takes the first five year period and seeks to program monies to acquire these items with special emphasis on the first year.

2. Environmental Impact? Any impact caused by the implementation of the general plans set forth in this report would be minimal and beneficial. The environmental impact of individual projects cannot be realistically assessed until specific project planning and design occurs.

3. Adverse Environmental Effects? None are expected.

4. Alternatives to Proposed Plans? Plans are flexible by nature. No alternatives, per se, are scheduled at this time. Natural alternative selections or variations would be made if the principal plan or plans are abandoned.

5. Relationship of Short-Term to Long-Term Effects on Environemnt? Planned for both short and long-term productivity.

6. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources? No.

7. Applicable Federal, State, and Local Environmental Controls.

Federal

National Environ. Policy Act of 1969
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act - 1964
Executive Order 11514 - Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality
Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970

State

State Environmental Policy Act of 1971
Floodway Regulation
Water and Air Quality Reporting Act of 1971
Soil Conservation District Law of 1937

8. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact. Good conservation and development practices should be tempered with common sense. Specific measures cannot be determined until the project planning and design phase is reached for each project recommended in this study.

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